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debt consolidation

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Conditions apply. Fee payable.  
Credit rating will be impaired.  
Debt may increase.  
Payment period will extend.

**Baines & Ernst**

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Debt may increase.  
Payment period will extend.

CCJ'S / Defaults  
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STAR

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CCJs?...

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ccj's?  
mortgage  
arrears?  
no credit  
history?  
self  
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**19.9%**  
APR  
TYPICAL

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Norton Finance

# LOANS

FOR ANY PURPOSE

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TELETEXT CH4  
PAGE 615

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dfb  
MEMBERS



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NORTON FINANCE are one of the largest and  
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ILLUSTRATION OF OUR POPULAR PLANS SHOWING MONTHLY REPAYMENTS

BORROW	300 MTHS	180 MTHS	120 MTHS	90 MTHS	60 MTHS	VARIABLE
75000	562.47	702.44	896.86	1098.39	1508.85	7.9% APR
50000	374.98	468.29	597.90	732.26	1005.89	VARIABLE
40000	299.99	374.63	478.32	585.81	804.72	8.9% APR
35000	262.49	327.81	418.54	512.59	704.13	VARIABLE
32500	263.72	321.80	404.56	491.12	668.23	9.9% APR
30000	243.44	297.04	373.43	453.34	616.83	VARIABLE
27500	223.15	272.29	342.32	415.56	565.42	10.9% APR
25000	202.86	247.53	311.20	377.78	514.02	VARIABLE
22500	196.84	235.17	291.34	350.68	472.72	11.9% APR
20000	174.97	209.04	258.97	311.72	420.19	VARIABLE
17500	153.10	182.91	226.60	272.76	367.67	12.9% APR
15000	131.23	156.78	194.23	233.79	315.15	VARIABLE
12500	117.39	137.62	168.17	200.78	268.23	13.9% APR
10000	93.91	110.09	134.53	160.63	214.58	VARIABLE
7500	70.43	82.58	100.90	120.47	160.94	14.9% APR
5000	46.96	55.05	67.27	80.31	107.29	VARIABLE

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EXPERIENCE WHO WILL DEAL WITH YOUR APPLICATION SWIFTLY AND EFFICIENTLY THROUGH TO COMPLETION

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## TWO MORE FOR SUPER BASHER

WE CAME UP WITH TWO MORE WINNERS YESTERDAY SO FOR TODAY'S BEST THREE BETS JUST DIAL:

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Calls cost £1 per min at all times from BT landline

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FREE TIPS TODAY

Text **TIPS** to  
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HUGE WINNERS from our panel of experts  
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1-2 BETS EACH MESSAGE

W 10/1 W 9/1 W 8/1 W 7/1

GREAT FRI RESULTS INC

8 WINNERS IN A ROW!

TOP INFO TODAY

TOP SAYS SAYS IT'S

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NAMED IN UNDER 60 SECS

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COST £1.00 PER MIN FROM A BT LAND LINE

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## DALE MCKEOWN

EX CHAMPION JOCKEY

MARKS YOUR CARD

W 8/1 W 6/1 W 10/3 W 4/1

W 3/1 W 11/2 ETC

GREAT RECENT FORM

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T

MISS OUT TODAY!!!

TOP CLASS NEWS!

MASSIVE WAGER

CONTACT SAYS

"THE STABLE WON'T

HEAR OF THIS HORSE

BEING BEATEN"

GET ON NOW!

**0906 635 8858**

CALLS COST £1.00 PER MINUTE

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## IN THE KNOW

J.R. STEVENSON W 15/8 LANDING THE GAMBLE LAST FRIDAY

STABLE GAMBLE FOR TODAY

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"THIS IS DIFFERENT CLASS"

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CALLS COST £1.00 PER MIN FROM BT LAND LINE

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HIGH CLASS BETTING INFO FOR UK &

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W 16/1 W 5/1 W 6/1 W 11/4 W 3/1 W 11/2 ETC

BIG WINNERS IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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BIG FRIDAY GAMBLE

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BEST BET NETWORK RECORD

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3 WINNING BETS FROM 4

LAST FRIDAY

GALLERY GOD W 7/2

DAWARDARI W 6/4 ETC

VERY STRONG BET

FOR TODAY

"A RACING CERT"

SAYS TOP CONTACT

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TIMMY MURPHY is a red-hot favourite to be top jockey at the three-day Paddy Power Open meeting starting at Cheltenham today.

And for the second day running he rode a double to show his fans he is the jock to follow despite cramped odds of 5-4 with the sponsors to be top man.

His latest twosome was at Taunton yesterday on Regal Bandit for Henrietta Knight and Lutea for Martin Pipe.

And it is the Pipe horses that will see Murphy land the honours according to Totesport, who go 11-10.

Spokesman Damian Walker said last night: "Murphy looks to have the strongest book of rides and, if recent history is anything to go by, he will probably need to have at least three winners to be top jockey. He could do that tomorrow with Martin Pipe's Marcel, Well

by PETER THICKETT

Chief and Comply Or Die all holding strong claims.

"Tony McCoy (8-1), with 15 winners at this meeting in the last three years, is up against it as he misses Saturday through suspension and the O'Neill stable are not firing on all cylinders. McCoy's old boss Pipe has traditionally done well at the Open and McCoy may have to look to Pipe for his best chances again."

Last year's Paddy Power Gold Cup winner Fondmont has been well backed with Coral for a repeat win in the race tomorrow, and Nicky Henderson's horse is now 8-1 (from 10-1) third favourite for the Cheltenham showpiece. Fondmont heads the weights of the 14 horses declared with Monkerhostin the favourite.

## NEWCASTLE ON 09055 141 602 (612)

### TOP TRAINERS (with runners) L. Lungo

17 winners, (19% strike rate), -£35.29, M W Easterby 13, (17%), -£22.62, T Easterby 11, (19%), -£15.48, F Murphy 9, (9%), -£68.05, R Johnson 8, (9%), -£15.12, M Todhunter 6, (21%), -£22.13, J Howard Johnson 6, (10%), -£14.82, F Murtagh 3, (10%), -£15.25.

### 1.00 SALTWELL SIGNS JUVENILE NOVICES' HURDLE

(E) (9 flights) 2m (15 runners) £3,504

1 CLASSIC EVENT (F10) T Easterby 3 10 12 D O Meara 2  
2 INDI AND STAR (F11) D Carson 3 10 12 A Dempsey 3  
3 KILLOCH PLACE (301T) W Easterby 3 10 12 M Oliver 51  
4 LITTLESTAR (8) A Dickman 3 10 12 J Crowley 5  
5 NAMED AT DINNER (6V) M A Duffield 3 10 12 A Dobbins 84  
6 RARE COINCIDENCE (6) F Fisher 3 10 12 G Leo 57  
7 THE RIP (30T) T Easterby 3 10 12 R Garity 55  
8 WINSLOW BOY (8) P Morritt 3 10 12 P Robson 31  
9 ZARADOU (F100) F Sady 3 10 12 L McGrath 3  
10 ALPHA JULIET (F74) G M Moore 3 10 5 F Kenly 7  
11 DORISMA (F33) M W Easterby 3 10 5 M Hamill 33  
12 KATE KAI (F32) M S Foster 3 10 5 M C Storey 3  
13 SAVANNAH RIVER (F74) M S K Milligan 3 10 5 P Buchanan 5  
14 TIZ WIZ (F13) W Storey 3 10 5 G Berridge 5  
15 Star Betting: -11-4 Rare Coincidence, 10-3 NAMED AT DINNER, 6 Classic Event, Habitual Dancer, 7 The Rip, 16 Alpha Juliet, Savannah River, 20 others.  
2003: Jake Black, 3-10-12, (W T Keane) (2), 14-1 J Quinn, 18, ran.

### S: NAMED AT DINNER D: Rare Coincidence

BBC RADIO NEWCASTLE BEGINNERS' CHASE

Class E (17 fences) 2m4f (7 runners) £4,066

1 P303 BEAT THE HEAT (14G) J O'Keefe 6 11 0 B Harding 110  
2 10F4 CARRIBAN DAWN (65S) G S Mrs L Moore 10 11 0 D Flavin 53  
3 58C JUMMIES (65S) J W Foster 7 11 0 J O'Keefe 46  
4 44C MASTER PAPA (24G) S J W Foster 7 11 0 A Evans 46  
5 4P15 NOW THEN SID (45) (BF2D) M S Watt 5 11 0 R Garity 4  
6 1114 PADDY THE PIPER (BF2D,F,G,S) L Lungo 7 11 0 A Dobbins 4  
7 02C SUPREME DEVELOPER (190G) F Murphy 7 11 0 P Robson 31  
Star Betting: -4-5 Paddy The Pip, 6 Beat The Heat, Master PAPA, 8 Now Then Sid, Supreme Developer, 20 Carriban Dawn, Jummies.  
2003: No corresponding race.

### S'FORM: BEAT THE HEAT D: Paddy The Pip

## WOLVERHAMPTON ON 09055 141 603 (613)

### 1.20 GLOWORM HANDICAP

Class F4 amateurs 1m6f (13 runners) £2,969

(11) 2061 ROMUL STAR (3C,D,A,F,G,S) K R Burke 7 12 7/7T Mrs K Kelly Burke 5  
(2) 06410 BROUGHT KNOWS (35C,D,A,F,G,S) Mrs C Kellaway 7 12 0 Miss A Wallace 5  
(3) 0108 TRAILLEUR (409G) S Mrs T Mowley 4 11 1 Mrs C Thompson 5  
(4) 0102 WIZARD OF OZ (19S) M M Wallington 4 11 1 Mrs C Thompson 5  
(5) 00022 SECRET JEWEL (16G) Laidy Harries 4 11 7 Mr S Walker 17  
(6) 0000 KNOCKTOPHER ABBEY (41G,A,F,B) A Newcombe 7 11 1 Miss C Mansford  
(7) 0240 LADY BOLT (50F) J G O'Shea 4 11 7 Mr D Doherty 1  
(8) 3401 VANDERBERGHE (30C,D,A,F,G,S) A O'Shea 5 11 6 Mr P Kinsella 7  
(9) 0000 GALLANT BOY (28G) A Bradley 5 11 6 Miss E Felleghy 4  
(10) 0000 BUDE (J22) S Broderick 5 11 6 Mr C Tumulty 7  
(11) 0009 RED SKELTON (8A) M Doherty 5 11 6 Mr C Ellingham 7  
(12) 0005 BRAVELY DOES IT (6) W Broderick 5 11 6 Mr C Ellingham 7  
(13) 01033 ASTROMANCER (28G,D) M Tompkins 4 11 0 Mr S Dobson 3  
Star Betting: -4-1 Romul Star, 5 Tom Bolt, Vanderberghe, 6 Wizard of Oz, 7 Brought Knows, 15 Secret Jewel, 10 Astrocrater, 12 others.  
2003: Mr Mischief, 3-11-13, (Mr B Haslam) (5), 11-1 P Haslam, drawn 9, 10, ran.

### STARFORM: ASTROMANCER D: Vanderberghe

CARVER - MARLEY CLAIMING STAKES

(F4) 2YO 1m1f (13 runners) £3,038

(11) 0005 SOL ROJO (13) A O'Shea 9 7 S W Kelly 43  
(2) 010 LUFFS FOREST (24) P Henson 9 7 N Pollard 46  
(3) 000 BRUT FORCE (11) M S V Hagh 8 13 J Egan 9  
(4) 0000 MOUNT EPHRAIM (11G) P Fisher 8 13 P Morgan 57  
(5) 000 AMBERLINA (125) P Morris 8 13 P Morgan 57  
(6) 01010 DONT TELL TRIGGER (67F) J S Moore 8 6 R L Moore 62  
(7) 01010 DADDY BUCKET (73G) V D M Smoock 8 4 S Whitworth 66  
(8) 01000 EDITH BANKS (32G) G M Turner 8 6 G Haddon 59  
(9) 01015 LORNA DUNE (12G) J G O'Shea 8 2 B Swardick 49  
(10) 000 CHICKS BABE (25) F Pelling 8 0 P P Farris 33  
(11) 000 THE WOOD (28) A Wood 7 12 M Kinsella 46  
(12) 000 CHAMPAGNE BRANDY (158) P Evans 7 12 L Dineen 38  
(13) 000 WINTER MIST (7) L Mowley 7 12 N Mackay 46  
Star Betting: -7-2 Amberlina, 4 Lorna Dune, 11-2 Don't Tell Trigger, 7 Sol Rojo, 15-2 Mount Ephraim, 9 After The Show, 10 Daisy Bucket, 14 others.  
BEST DRAWN: After The Show (drawn) 4 33%.  
2003: Myannabanna, 5-7, (S W Kelly, 4-1) P Howling, 4, 12, ran.

### STARFORM: AMBERLINA Danger: Lorna Dune

BANK OF SCOTLAND HANDICAP (Div 1)

Class E3 7f (12 runners) £3,394

(1) 75080 ATLANTIC QUEST (77D,A,F,G,S) R Burke 5 12 P Morgan 68  
(2) 01051 UP TEMPO (13C,D,A,F,G,S) R Ryan 6 11 1 N Callan 54  
(3) 0054 SUMMER RECLUSE (237G,A) Bradley 5 11 1 R Moore 42  
(4) 01014 SAMUEL CHARLES (13C,D,A,F,G,S) P Biscoe 6 11 1 B Swardick 39  
(5) 01020 HEVERSHAM (14A) A Hetherington 3 10 0 M Tebbitt 50  
(6) 01030 SHERIFF'S DEPUTY (96F) P T. Under 4 9 9 S Whitworth 66  
(7) 01150 OUF LA NEIGE (11F,G,S) G Chug 4 9 8 G Leo 57  
(8) 00620 GREENWOOD (18F) P Murphy 6 9 7 R Kinsella 62  
(9) 01020 HAWKITT (43G,A,F,G,S) P Lennie 3 9 9 S Whitworth 66  
(10) 01052 WEST HIGHLAND WAY (13D,F) Sempie 3 9 6 R Kinsella 62  
(11) 00012 STORMY NATURE (13) (BF,C,D,A) R Searns 3 9 6 D O'Neill 46  
(12) 01010 MISARO (56G) P Biscoe 3 9 5 S Whitworth 66  
(13) 00000 TRAVELLER: West Highland Way 271 miles.  
Star Betting: -4 Stormy Nature, 5 Up Tempo, Samuel Charles, 7 Summer Recluse, 6 Greenwood, 9 Atlantic Quest, 12 others.  
BEST DRAWN: Greenwood (drawn) 5 11%.  
2003: Ashlee Belle, 4-9-3, (R Thomas) (5), 4-1 D Haydn Jones, 4, 11, 9, ran.

### STARFORM: STORMY NATURE D: Up Tempo

### TONY LEWIS STAR TIP

1.00 THE RIP 1.35 RARE COINCIDENCE  
1.35 PADDY THE PIPER 1.35 PADDY THE PIPER  
2.10 THEATRE KNIGHT 2.10 SCOTCH CORNER  
2.45 NAUNTON BROOK 2.45 ROSIE REDMAN  
3.20 SILVER SEDGE 3.20 ALWAYS RAINBOWS  
3.50 LAUDERDALE 3.50 LAUDERDALE

ROTTWEILER: 1.00 NAMED AT DINNER 1.35 BEAT THE HEAT 2.10 SCOTCH CORNER 2.45 RARE COINCIDENCE 3.20 ALWAYS RAINBOWS 3.50 LAUDERDALE

GOING: Good - Good to Firm in Places

PLACEPO: First six places

### 2.10 SALTWELL SIGNS NOVICES' HURDLE

(E) (11 flights) 2m4f (12 runners) £3,491

1 PP-12 SCOTCH CORNER (19) (BF,D,F,G) M Twiston-Davies 6 11 4 Anthony Evans 31+13  
2 RUSA- ALLYNUR (213) Mrs L Nornie 6 10 11 D Flavin 53  
3 4-1 GHOST BUSTER (215) Mrs L Nornie 6 10 11 A Dobbins 84  
4 4-1 GHOST CRUSHER (16) J Wade 4 10 11 K Johnson 5  
5 222- LEOPARD SPOT (201T) Miss L Russell 6 10 11 P Buchanan 51  
6 6-1 LOST BOY L 5 10 11 B Gibson 5  
7 2400 RIVIERA (F25) M Johnson 6 10 11 P Kenly 7  
8 311- THEATRE KNIGHT (338) J Howard Johnson 6 10 11 G Leo 57  
9 THE RECIPIENT 7 Wades 5 10 11 A Dempsey 3  
10 04-25 TOP BILL (120) Mrs S Watt 4 10 11 R Garity 5  
11 6-1 TYNDAL (278) Mrs A Hamilton 5 10 11 P Robson 31  
12 04-10 YANKEE CROSSLING (13) F Murphy 6 10 11 B Harding 44  
Star Betting: -2-1 Scotch Corner, 7-2 Riviera, 11-2 Theatre Knight, 6 Leopard Spot, 4-1 Lost Boy, 14 Tyndale, 16 Ghost Buster, 20 others.  
2003: Patriarch Express, 6-10-11, (N Hammy) (3), EVENS fav, G Harker, 8, ran.

### STARFORM: SCOTCH CORNER Danger: Riviera







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**■ by PETER THICKETT**

when he went to the front. Chris and William took him to the front because he did not want to disappoint him," Nicholls added.

Inca Trail could be seen out quickly under a penalty at Folkestone on Monday.

Christian Williams sent *Ice Trail* to the front approaching the fourth-last fence but the gelding had to be ridden out to hold on by two lengths from Finbar's Ridge.

"He was not doing a tap

[illegible]

Kennedy 8-11) vjv. Shd. Hd. 8 s. ran. m. 1.00 (2m).  
 CH. 1.00 (2m).  
 Text: \$3.44 vol. pl \$6.80, \$2.70, 8.10. ex. exact: \$192.40. ex. \$316.36.  
 QUADRET \$2.50. PLACETOP \$11.90.

**LUDLOW**  
 1.00 (2m). 1. PETANQUE (Chris Williams 7-4); 2. Laminino (D Laverty 18-1); 3. Amberson (A Tinkler 6-1). Past Mix 13-5 sh. 15l, 12 ran. m. 1.00 (2m).  
 Text: \$2.40. vol. pl \$1.40, \$3.30, \$2.10. ex. exact: \$2.40. ex. \$226.26. NR. Dhaudolup.

**WOLVERHAMPTON**  
 4.15 (2t). L. ZARABAD (T. Williams 9-4); 2. L. ZARABAD (T. Williams 9-4); 3. Party Boys (R Moore 29-1).

Love-2; 3. **Manorom** (D R Dennis 3-1 faw), 111, 71 7 r. rans. W. L. White.  
 Total: €29.00, cf. €33.00, €29.00. exacta: €33.00.  
 3.00 (3m). 1. **INCA TRAIL** (Charles Williams 4-1); 2. **Fibnar's** (W. G. Doyle 4-1); 3. **Wormy** (McDonald (C) Llewellyn 9-1). Wormy 3-1 faw; 3-1, 61 r. rans. P. Nicholls, Shs.  
 Total: €3.00, cf. €6.00, €3.00, €2.40. exacta: €26.00, cf. €43.90.  
 3.30 (2m 25). **Wild Chines** (7 Shs) 1-1, 12 r. rans. W. L. White.  
 Total: €378.42.

**Distributed by News**

**Front**  
Nicholls said of the 4-year-old gelding: "Since he ran at Wincanton, he must have been over fences and hurdles at home over 100 times."

**LINGFIELD**  
12.50 (2m 7f): 1, **THRILLING PROSPECT** (W Marston 10-11 half; 2, **Risk Lady** (C Bolger 4-1); 3, **Efkirk** (B Hitchcott 11-12). 8l, 7/5l. 8 ran. R. Phillips, Moreton-in-Marsh.  
Tote: £1.70; pl £1.10, £1.50, £1.70; exacta: £5.20, csf: £10.44.

1.20 (3m): 1, **BRAVE SPIRIT** (J Tizzard 6-4 half); 2, **Hazeljak** (R Young 10-11); 3, **St Kilda** (Miss Lucy Bridges 16-1). 9l, 2/1. 9 ran. C. I. Tizzard, Sherborne.  
Tote: £2.60; pl £1.50, £2.50, £2.80; exacta: £15.40, csf: £16.98, tricast:

Dippe (Mr C Gordon 20-1); 3, Apple (Mr J T Drepner 4-1), 31, 7/4 5 ran. K Bishop, Bridgwater.  
Total: £1.80; pi £1.10, £4.90. exacta £2.80, csf: £3.03.  
3.20 (2m 7f): 1, **KEEPERS MEAD** (A Thornton 7-2); 2, **Standing Bloom** (W Marston 6-1); 3, **Rollo** (P J Brennan 11-4 fav), 41, 71. 8 ran. R Alner, Blandford.  
Total: £4.20; pi £1.30, £2.00, £1.50. exacta: £26.30, csf: £23.58, tricast: £22.94.  
3.50 (2m): 1, **KING ALFRED** (H Hide 50-1); 2, **Whistling Fred** (I Cosgrave 12-1); 3, **Dans Pied** (W

1.1 (3m): 1, 4-6 THE BLACK (M)  
A Fitzgerald 1, 4-6 fav; 2, Loré  
Dundaniel (D R Dennis 7-2); 3, Chase  
The Sunset (J R McCarthy 4-1). 10  
9l. 6 ran. P Hobbs, Minehead.  
Total: £11.00; pl £2.50, £1.10. exacta £3.  
£3.80. csf: £3.40.  
2.00 (2m): 1, COSSACK DANCE (M)  
(M Batchelor 8-1); 2, Dominica (M)  
Monk (A Tinkler 15-8 fav); 3, Stagette  
Friendly (C Llewellyn 20-1). 8l, 15l  
13 ran. M Bradstock, Wantage.  
Total: £11.00; pl £2.70, £1.10. £4.40  
exacta: £45.40. csf: £21.35. NR: Let's  
Rock.  
2.30 (2m): 1, COLLIER'S COURT  
(M McPhill 7 1); 3, KARL JENSEN (C)

(Christian Williams 11-4 fav); 3  
**Stock Dove** (J E Moore 14-1). 3'/zl  
 2w/l. 18 ran. M Scudamore  
 Hoarwithy.  
 Tote: £10.00; pl £2.60, £2.00, £3.40  
 exacta: £33.70. csf: £31.66.  
 4.00 (2m): 1, **OSCAR FOXBOB** (A  
 Tinkler 7-2 fav), 2, **Supreme Missile**  
 (S Thomas 9-2), 3, **Tank Buster** (Mr R  
 Langley 4-1). 1'/zl, 2'/sl. 12 ran. C  
 Tinkler, Compton.  
 Tote: £3.50; pl £1.80, £2.30, £9.40  
 exacta: £11.40. csf: £16.86.  
**QUADPOT: £25.90**  
**PLACEPOT: £84.60**

Williams, was completing a near 13-1 double after being on the mark with Petanque in the opener. And trainer Evan Williams paid tribute to colleague Nicky Henderson after Petanque had given owners Blue Yonder Partnership their first win. The winning trainer said, "This horse has had

**TAUNTON**  
 1.10 (3m): 1, CA NA TRONA (N)  
 Fehily 9-34; 2, Lou Du Moulin Mas (C)  
 Sharkey evens fav; 3, Rowley Hill (W)  
 Hutchinsdon 12-1. 2f, 1/4l. 7 ran. C  
 Mann, Lambourn.  
 Totte: £3.20; pl £1.80, £1.10. exacta:  
 £5.80. csf: £4.38.  
 1.40 (2m 1f): 1, MCBAIN (P Flynn)  
 4-9 fav; 2, Medici (T J Murphy 6-1);  
 3, Hail The King (S Walsh 12-1). 4f,  
 5l. 13 ran. P Hobbs, Minehead.  
 Totte: £1.40; pl £1.02, £1.80, £2.20.  
 exacta: £2.60. NR: Little  
 Richard.

£24.05. tricast: £1,732.67.  
 3.10 (2m 3f): 1, **RED SOCIETY** (Mr  
 R Stephens 11-4 fav); 2, **Mrs Phil**  
 (Mr T J O'Brien 16-1); 3, **The Gene**  
 (Mr Marc Barber 16-1). 21, 71.  
 10 ran. P Hobbs, Minehead.  
 Tote: £3.90; pl £1.10, £4.70, £3.70.  
 exacta: £30.90. csf: £45.06. tricast:  
 £601.22.  
 3.40 (3m): 1, **TOTHEROADYOU**  
**VGONE** (M Foley 15-8 fav); 2,  
**Sacrifice** (T J Murphy 4-1); 3, **Pillar**  
**Of Fire** (W Hutchinson 4-1). 1/1d, 6L.  
 ran. A E Jones, Tiverton.  
 Tote: £3.10. exacta: £5.20. csf:  
 £8.92.

Sir M Stoute, Newmarket.  
Total: £32.00; pl £1.30, £2.00, £5.60.  
exacta: £13.40, csf. £14.59.  
4.40 (1m f); 1, MASTER THEO (K Darley 7-2 j fav); 2, La Puce (C Haddon 9-2); 3, Dandygrye Russett (R L Moore 12-1). Yashin 7-2 j fav. 11.  
Hd 12 ran. H Collingridge, Newmarket.  
Total: £3.90; pl £1.10, £1.90, £8.40.  
exacta: £2.40, csf. £18.45.  
5.05 (1m 10f); 1, GALLERY BREEZE (G Gibbons 13-2); 2, Eastbrough (N Callan 4-1 j fav); 3, Londoner (R L Moore 4-1 j fav). Nk.

insley.  
 Toté: £11.20; pl £4.60, £1.50, £1.70.  
 exacta: £167.00. csf: £39.87. NR:  
 Juniper Banks.  
 6.20 (1m 4f): 1, **HEATHYARDS**  
**PRIDE** (D Sweeney 7-4 fav); 2,  
**Madiba** (R Winston 8-1); 3, **Eirbina** (R  
 Havin 16-1). 7/4, 3/4, 12 ran. R.  
 Hollinshead, Upper Longdon.  
 Toté: £3.30; pl £1.20, £3.20, £3.00.  
 exacta: £28.90. csf: £17.13.  
**QUADPOT: £9.60**  
**PLACEPOT: £84.30**  
**JACKPOT: not won, £88,478.50** car-  
 ried over to Cheltenham.

Distributed by Newsprint



# British Greyhound Racing Board

**NINJA LARK (10.08)** and Knockeevan Magic, two of Romford's best-loved stars in recent years, are back on the track following enforced spells of inactivity and they go head-to-head in the top division of the 400m contest at the Essex track tonight.

Not surprisingly, both suffered defeats on their respective comebacks with Ninja Lark suffering a bumpy ride after turning sharp left from the three-box over C&D a fortnight ago, while last weekend Knockeevan Magic was no match for track specialist Oklahoma Gold in a Sittingbourne sprint, although he showed none of his old sparkle and awesome speed was lost.

Both sets of supporters will be high in confidence, but Ninja Lark would appear to have both a draw and fitness edge over Peter Rich's former

by JIM AUSTIN

Laurels winner and he is taken to compliment last week's satisfactory victory in what should be a thriller.

**Teds World Cup (9.52)** was another from the Paul Young kennel to score last week after an absence and he will be advantaged rather than inconvenienced by the switch midfield in the second division of the 575m and, providing he clears Rich's Different Gravy early, should follow-up.

Young and Rich again lock horns in the top 575m contest, but this time it should be Rich coming out on top.

## Battle

Just a length split his Denmarkmark (10.24) and Young's Legal Knight, with Remember Billy and Lemon Sparky comfortably held in third and fourth respectively over C&D last week and the quartet do battle again.

Although sent off a hot even-money favourite to give Young an eight-minute at the open race meet last week, Legal Knight could never get to Denmarkmark, who bulletted out of the three-box and maintained a strong gallop throughout.

On that evidence - which was very accurate to both dogs styles of running - there would seem no reason for expecting a reversal in form and the same outcome, even down to fourth place, looks very much on the cards. A 750m contest



ON THE MARK: Romford tip Denmarkmark

brings the curtain down on the meeting and, while it is tempting to side with Wilcox Dream as she recently ran Tuesday's St Leger runner-up and former winner Shelbourne Star to a length and a half in the first round of the stages Classic, she has not won from 19 starts in this country and her only career success came on her Irish debut at Waterford in March.

The real task much of a muck and, with the race likely to turn into a muddling affair, the advice has to be 'no bet'.

Five opens spice up the Henlow card with Anchor Bay Piper (9.59) the banker from red in the 550m contest.

## ROMFORD CARD

7.30	JOHNNY KILVERA (m)	575m	9.20	(Open)	575m
1	1512 BARRAN GEMINO (m)	575m	1	3521 Foully Joy (m)	400m
2	1445 Itchy Scratchy (m)	575m	2	1112 Glashen Hocho (m)	400m
3	1213 Tulebury Lad (m)	575m	3	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
4	1534 Agabus (m)	575m	4	1033 BO BO (m)	400m
5	5383 Maori Warrior (m)	575m	5	1224 Goshen Wood (m)	400m
6	2655 Cecil Rake (m)	575m	6	2351 Headless Blue (m)	400m
7	Star betting: 3 Barran Gemino, Maori Warrior, 7-2 Tulebury Lad, Cecil Rake, 9-2 Agabus, 10-1 Itchy Scratchy				
8.17	(Open)	400m	9.36	(Open)	400m
1	1142 Selly (m)	400m	1	1515 Poring Vandy (m)	400m
2	2616 Sandman Road (m)	400m	2	6631 NOT SO FAMOUS (m)	400m
3	1454 Blue Beta (m)	400m	3	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
4	1256 Ben Tule (m)	400m	4	6153 Rio Santos (m)	400m
5	4441 Ty Agan Lad (m)	400m	5	6335 Manwood (m)	400m
6	1112 BADGE NEWSPAPER (m)	400m	6	1224 Goshen Wood (m)	400m
7	Star betting: 1-4 Sandman Road, 3 Ben Tule, 2-1 Ty Agan Lad, 4-5 Blue Beta, 6-7 Ben Tule, 8-9 Ty Agan Lad, 10-11 BADGE NEWSPAPER				
8.32	(Open)	575m	9.52	(Open)	575m
1	1536 Nini Duh (m)	575m	1	9333 Rio Wilko (m)	575m
2	2634 Andromeda (m)	575m	2	5335 Different Gravy (m)	575m
3	5343 Hoot Do (m)	575m	3	2111 TEES WORLD CUP (m)	575m
4	2019 Doodlebug (m)	575m	4	1134 Dalgas (m)	575m
5	2131 TRAVIA CHARLIE (m)	575m	5	2232 Newland (m)	575m
6	1121 Strazy Star (m)	575m	6	Star betting: 1-4 Newland, 2-3 Rio Wilko, 5-6 Different Gravy, 7-8 Newland, 9-10 Lungs, 11-2 Boodi	
7	Star betting: 1-4 Strazy Star, 2-3 Rio Wilko, 5-6 Different Gravy, 7-8 Newland, 9-10 Lungs, 11-2 Boodi				
8.49	(Open)	400m	10.08	(Open)	400m
1	1221 Mountain Bess (m)	400m	1	1151 ANNA LARK (m)	400m
2	1125 THUNDERBOLT ONE (m)	400m	2	1112 Glashen Hocho (m)	400m
3	2322 FREELAND TIME (m)	400m	3	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
4	412 Time Spin (m)	400m	4	1151 ANNA LARK (m)	400m
5	2284 Abertge (m)	400m	5	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
6	2019 Doodlebug (m)	400m	6	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
7	Star betting: 4-5 Abertge, 3-4 Way Fast, 2-1 Mountain Bess, 5-6 Thunderbolt One, 7-8 Doodlebug, 9-10 Time Spin				
9.04	(Open)	400m	10.24	(Open)	400m
1	1341 Tommy Tia (m)	400m	1	1151 ANNA LARK (m)	400m
2	2355 Salvo (m)	400m	2	1112 Glashen Hocho (m)	400m
3	5321 Mattie Mae (m)	400m	3	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
4	1121 Strazy Star (m)	400m	4	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
5	4345 Bright Eagle (m)	400m	5	1134 Dalgas (m)	400m
6	Star betting: 1-4 Mattie Mae, 2-3 Tommy Tia, 5-6 Bright Eagle, 7-8 Salvo, 9-10 Tommy Tia				

## HENLOW TIPS

7.35	ORIENTAL STAKE (4)	575m	11.26	(A5)	460m
7.51	FURIOUS PRINCE (5)	575m	11.63	Jump For Joy (m)	460m
8.07	SAFFRON LEONA (1)	575m	12.41	Killick Cracker (m)	460m
8.23	IM ADVENTUROUS (m)	575m	12.55	Do You Want (m)	460m
8.39	FUDDLETOWN PET (2)	575m	13.01	Do You Want (m)	460m
8.55	POUGHMAN BERT (5)	575m	13.11	Do You Want (m)	460m
9.1	JUMPING GIRL (2)	575m	13.11	Do You Want (m)	460m
9.27	GLENNADY (5)	575m	13.11	Do You Want (m)	460m
9.43	BRUNO (6)	575m	13.11	Do You Want (m)	460m
9.59	ANCHOR BAY PIPER (nap)	575m	13.11	Do You Want (m)	460m
10.15	MILL STREET (3)	575m	13.11	Do You Want (m)	460m

## YOUR AFTERNOON BAGS CARDS WITH BEST HINTS

WIMBLEDON				WALTHAMSTOW			
11.26	(A5)	26.08		11.34	(A4)	475m	
11.63	Jump For Joy (m)	26.08		12.01	STONEHEDGE (m)	29.97	
12.01	Killick Cracker (m)	26.08		12.14	Unlucky Filly (m)	29.79	
12.16	Do You Want (m)	26.08		12.29	Stonehedge (m)	29.79	
12.43	Wm Gm Hm (m)	26.08		12.43	Unlucky Filly (m)	29.79	
12.51	Recall Charge (m)	26.08		12.51	Amount Of (m)	29.71	
12.56	BUCKLE UP (m)	26.08		12.56	Indiscreet Manner (m)	29.68	
<b>Star betting:</b> 3 Buckdoo Bay, 7-2 Raschal Chappie, Do You Want, Jump For Joy.				<b>Star betting:</b> 3 Stonehedge, Unlucky Filly, 2-1 Amount Of, 4 Indiscreet Manner, 5-2 Martins, 6-2 Fudge.			
11.03	Coopers Blimey (m)	26.02		11.48	(A8)	475m	
11.34	LOONAHORN KATIE (m)	26.02		12.50	Mam Gme (m)	30.09	
11.50	Wm Polar (m)	26.02		12.59	Wm Knovee Dm (m)	30.06	
12.04	Wm Polar (m)	26.02		12.59	Trimm Trimm (m)	30.13	
12.04	Wm Polar (m)	26.02		12.59	Shattered (m)	30.01	
12.51	Bonville Flash (m)	26.03		12.59	Dalley Sound (m)	30.17	
12.52	Shaved Towel (m)	26.02		12.59	Manula Fm (m)	30.03	
<b>Star betting:</b> 3 White Polar, 7-2 Loonahorn Katie, Coopers Blimey, Fossage Jack, 9-2 Bonville Flash, 1-10 Lido Jockey.				<b>Star betting:</b> 5-2 Hopalong Fly, 3-11m Gme, 4-2 Marshing, 5-2 Marshing Fly, 3-11m Gme, 4-2 Marshing Fly, 3			



# Brian banking on Danny boy

GB coach Brian Noble has pinned his faith on stand-off Danny McGuire for tomorrow's crucial Gillette Tri-Nations Series clash with Australia.

Noble gave little away by naming a 19-man squad for the sell-out game at Wigan's JJB Stadium, but revealed that McGuire and Sean Long will continue the half-back partnership that began to blossom in the second half of last Saturday's 22-12 win over New Zealand.

**The 21-year-old, who scored a phenomenal 39 tries for champions Leeds this year, made the vital break which produced the match-winning try for winger Stuart Reardon.**

Paul Sculthorpe, who was Long's partner for the 12-8 defeat by the Kangaroos in Manchester, will remain at loose forward but Noble will be forced to make at

by MIKE PLATT

least one change, with Iestyn Harris ruled out through illness.

The Bradford stand-off, who was on the bench at Huddersfield, has failed to recover from the flu virus which has swept through the camp and Noble admits there are concerns over some other members of the 19-man squad.

## Spirit

Bradford prop Stuart Fielden, man of the match in Britain's first Tri-Nations outing, resumed training yesterday after being sent home at the start of the week.

"He practised well today and seems to be in good spirits," said Noble.

"There is a good spirit in the camp. The focus is on winning the Test match.

"Everybody who has been able to practice has practised well and we're delighted with them."

One man fit and raring to go is skipper Andy Farrell, who was one of the players badly affected by illness during the win over the Kiwis.

## Debuts

"Today is the first day I've felt 100%," he said.

Noble has including two uncapped players - St Helens hooker Mick Higham and Wigan loose forward Sean O'Loughlin - in his 19-man squad.

Both will be hoping to make their Test debuts, while three-quarter Chev Walker, who can also play second row, earns a recall after being dropped for last week's match.



MAC THE KNIFE: GB stand-off Danny McGuire

## INSIDE RUGBY LEAGUE with Peter Wilson

# All fired up

GREAT Britain will be hoping that their normal Senior service will be resumed at Wigan tomorrow.

And nobody is more aware that the fans are expecting much more than the man himself.

Leeds' powerful centre Keith Senior admits that "things have been a bit quiet" and he's still not firing on all cylinders.

## Lethal

But the 16 stone 6ft 3in Rhino who tore great holes in both New Zealand and Australia in recent Test series - earning himself a place in an elite World X111 - senses that he's not far away from hitting the high spots again.

"I just need to start getting some of the ball I'd like and things will spring from

there," he says. Although the tries and breaks may have dried up for Senior ahead of his 18th Test appearance he is still regarded as one of the Lions' lethal weapons.

At 28, he is one of the few in the team who can remember the last victory over the Aussies seven games ago and is convinced that the trend of late defeats is about to end.

*"A victory over Australia to take us into the Tri-Nations Final would be just the confidence boost we need and there's no reason why we can't do that."*

A sell-out crowd, a score or two to settle and Senior back to his best... and things could not look brighter for Britain's chances.

● THE successful Gillette Tri-Nations series - total crowd for first four games 95,000 - will be staying in Britain.

It's all to do with TV deals and the Australian reluctance to watch rugby out of season (nobody told them that when they staged the RU World Cup last year).

So British fans can now enjoy a season lasting from the beginning of February to the end of November - plus a few "off-season" games in December and January.

*Is that too much of a good thing?*

## Spirit of '54 boost

THE World Cup is 50 years old tomorrow when Britain beat France 16-12 in Paris and a full-house at Wigan will get the chance to salute some of the first winners.

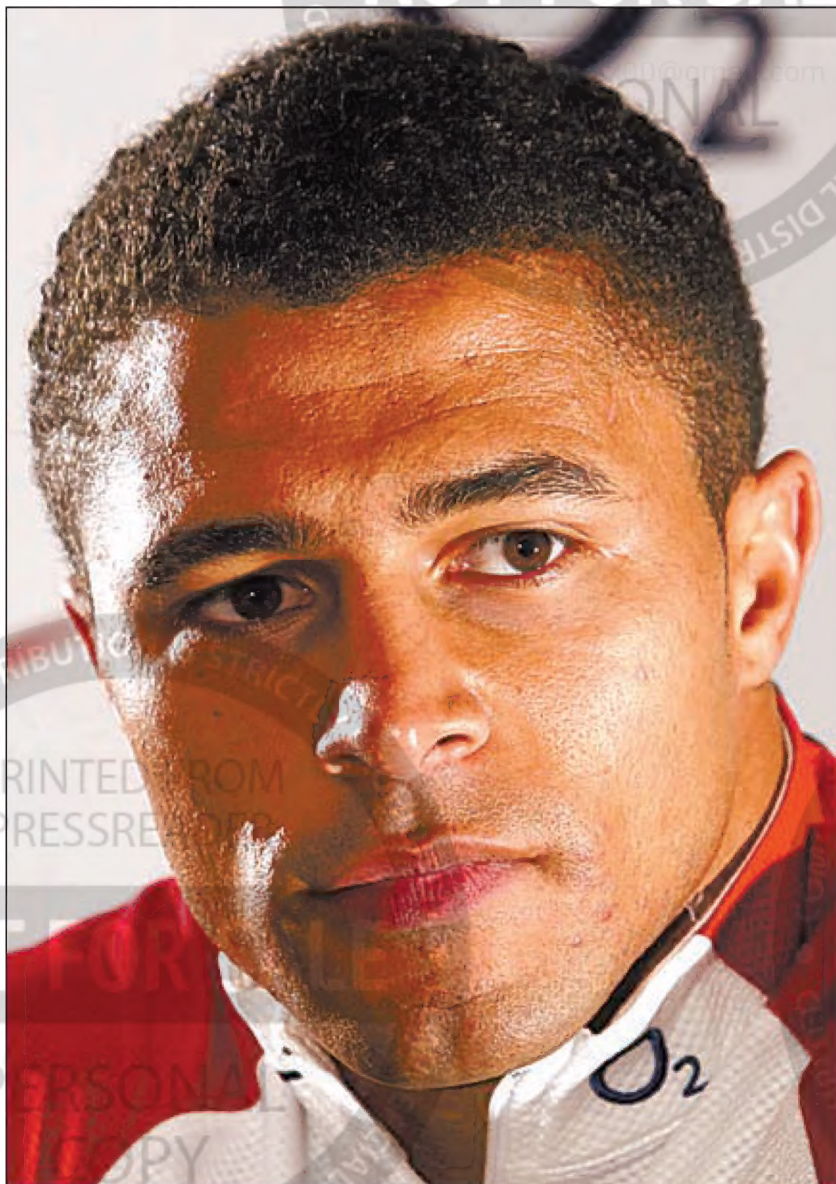
The trophy was lost for years and eventually found on a Yorkshire building site and restored before being won in 2000 by Australia (who else?).

But when such as Jimmy Ledgard, Johnny Whiteley, Mick Sullivan and their friends from that 50s triumph parade before the fans tomorrow it will be a timely reminder of what Britain have achieved in the past.

Andy Farrell and Co will need no bigger boost than that to see off the Australians.

## Jason Robinson explains what

# I KNOW



MAN OF FEW WORDS: But Jason Robinson's actions will always speak for themselves

## Moody ends his blues



YEAR OUT: Lewis Moody

LEWIS Moody will end the most frustrating year of his career when he lines up for England tomorrow.

He returns to international action for the first time since the World Cup final almost 12 months ago, spearheading a back-row including Andy Hazell and Martin Corry.

And is just happy to be back playing after spending almost 10 months on the sidelines following a potentially career-ending foot injury he first noticed while climbing up the step of the World Cup plane bound for Australia last autumn.

"It's just a genuine happiness and excitement to be back playing," said

Moody, who had surgery after the World Cup.

"I coped very, very poorly. I've always been a very active person and to be told you've got to be completely non-weight bearing on your foot for 16 weeks was tough.

"There were down periods, but you realise why you're doing the rehab and the goal at the end of the road is really worth it."

The prize for the 26-year-old, who made his international debut against Canada in 2001, is a chance to make the England open-side flanker spot vacated by Leicester colleague Neil Back, his very own.



the job means to him and how he'll do it

# THAT BEING CAPTAIN OF ENGLAND IS GOOD FOR ME

ENGLAND think Jason Robinson has got the captain's X Factor.

They don't know what it is but they love it. Robinson doesn't know what it is either but he loves it too.

It's something great captains are born with, something that takes an individual on to a different level. Martin Johnson's got it, so too Lawrence Dallaglio. The late Bobby Moore, Bryan Robson, certainly Roy Keane at Manchester United all had that secret formula that turned them into a special leader.

**Has David Beckham got the X Factor? Not sure about that. So who inspired Robinson from other sports when he was growing up, who does he look at now with respect?**

"No one really," he says. "I have never been one to follow sport that seriously. Never really taken notice."

## Black

"I know who I learned from in rugby, men like Andy Farrell, Dean Bell, Jonno and Lawrence Dallaglio but from other sports? No-one."

Not the answer I expected although it just emphasised what an extraordinary character he is.

At Twickenham tomorrow Robinson completes a remarkable full circle when he becomes the first black man and the first former rugby league player to captain England at Union.

**It's one of the fairy-tale stories of this sporting year and Robinson didn't appear fazed by the prospect. Why should he?**

From a violent childhood, a drink problem that almost drove him to suicide, Robinson has met and beaten bigger challenges. A Born Again Christian, he had to ask



## WOOLY'S B-I-G INTERVIEW

The Lord and his wife, Amanda, if it was right to captain his country.

They both said "yes" and, after waiting 24 hours to answer new England coach Andy Robinson, he said it would be an honour.

Coach Robinson says: "Since being told, Jason has responded and has got tremendous standing in the team. He doesn't use lots of words but when he does everyone listens. He's mentally strong."

Assistant coach Phil Larder adds: "Certain players, certain men are unique in that there is something inside that makes them different."

"What shall we call it, the X Factor? Johnson had it and when he sat in the dressing room you could see other players looking

at him and thinking 'I'm glad he's on our side'. The same applies to Robinson."

"They are inspirational characters who lead by example. They are role models and every youngster in the country should look at Robinson and say to himself 'I can do this'."

## Quality

Robinson, 30, is aware of his responsibilities and says: "The greatest quality a captain can have is the respect of his team-mates."

"A lot of people say the right words but they are no good if you can't back them up."

Robinson is aware of the pressure and knows his life is about to change, even if he is only a stop-gap captain while Jonny Wilkinson gets himself fit.

**WORLD BEATER:** Robinson dives in for his try in the World Cup Final last November



He added: "It is not a case of not liking all the stuff that goes on around David Beckham, yet anyone in life that has a high position must take responsibility."

"The media, public, everyone is looking at you differently. I spoke to my wife because this new thing in my life puts me under pressure, more of my time is taken away and to have her 100 per cent backing was important."

**"She has helped with enough stuff that has happened to me and she has always given me good advice. She said 'yes' and so did The Lord. I know that being captain of England is good for me."**

"I have been blessed and at the start of this season I didn't believe anything else could happen to me."

"Then Sale asked me to be captain and now England. "As a captain I will not be a crockery thrower although I will not be afraid to kick backsides if I have to. I will also lean on other experienced players,

as I have with Sale, and make decisions with them."

"I am not the best captain since sliced bread and am learning as I go along."

He's one of those rare sportsmen who, when they get the ball, bring an instant reaction of expectancy. Like Bobby Charlton, Wayne Rooney or Wilkinson.

## Feeling

Twickenham gets to its feet when Robinson comes into play. "I hear them and it excites me," he says.

"It's a wonderful feeling." The England team that runs out against Canada tomorrow will have only four survivors from the World Cup winning side — Robinson, Josh Lewsey, Mike Tindall and Steve Thompson. Others are injured, lost form or retired from internationals.

**Robinson's career you feel is just starting. The fullback, with 19 tries in 33 Tests, is ready to open up another chapter.**

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH

## Kelly near end of road

DOUBLE Olympic champion Kelly Holmes is thinking of retiring after admitting her amazing success in Athens has made her lose some of her hunger.

Holmes, 34, who won the 800m and 1500m, was speaking from her training camp in South Africa.

She said: "I haven't made any plans at all. I hope to do a couple of races if everything goes smoothly."

"But I haven't made any immediate plans that would include the European Indoors (in Madrid in March). That

would depend on if I feel I'm in shape."

"I don't think I will ever have the same focus or hunger. I'm not going to run just for the sake of it."

"I've put everything emotionally — and physically into what I've achieved."

"I never expected what happened in Athens. I still don't have any plans to retire but I do have to be realistic about the future."

## Ronnie's happy to rocket on

by JAMES DOBSON

RONNIE O'Sullivan was far happier with life last night after storming into the quarter-finals of the British Open in Brighton.

O'Sullivan, who had questioned his snooker future as he scraped past John Parrott in the previous round, fired in two century breaks to defeat Stephen Lee 5-0.

The world champion extended his run of victories in ranking events to 13 matches with any thoughts of retirement apparently long forgotten.

"There's no point quoting me because what I say from one day to the next will be different," the unpredictable O'Sullivan admitted.

## Flying

"It's important to play well and put in good performances for your whole well being. I didn't enjoy my match with John — but I enjoyed the one today."

"The standard is so high that you have to push yourself. It's not hard to motivate yourself these days because you know you have to." O'Sullivan, whose only British Open

title success came 10 years ago, opened the match with a break of 127 and ended it with one of 100 to extend his record against Lee to nine victories in 11 meetings.

"The century Ronnie had in the first frame settled him down," said Lee. "When I did get a chance I just felt cold."

As O'Sullivan coasted through, world number two Mark Williams was heading back to Wales after suffering a 5-3 defeat against Nottingham's Anthony Hamilton.

Williams, who has now lost his last four meetings with Hamilton, was looking to lift his first major title since capturing the LG Cup 13 months ago.

But Hamilton played some of his best snooker for some time, knocking in breaks of 53, 82, 71, 69, 90 and 84 to complete another victory over the two-time world champion.

"I always seem to play well against Mark," he said.

"He played better than he has for a while, but I was flying."

Ding Jun Hui, the 17-year-old prodigy from Shanghai who beat Jimmy White in the previous round, failed to reach the last eight.

He was beaten 5-2 by Glasgow's Stephen Maguire.

Ding's progress has attracted huge media interest in China — but after edging 2-1 ahead, he found Maguire too hot to handle.

## Barnes is a Ray of light

by KEVIN FRANCIS

BRITISH welterweight champion David Barnes has been likened to a "young Sugar Ray Leonard" by boxing legend Barry McGuigan.

Barnes defends his title against James Hare at the Northbridge Leisure Centre in Halifax tonight and former WBC world featherweight king McGuigan can't speak highly enough of him.

## Flashy

McGuigan, a Sky TV pundit tonight, said: "Watching him at times reminds me of a young Sugar Ray Leonard with the fast hands and fast foot movement, flashy style and accuracy."

Leonard was a champion at five different weights and McGuigan said: "Barnes doesn't have Leonard's punching potency nor his overall class, but there are resemblances and he is a kid that's constantly improving."

McGuigan said of challenger Hare: "He will be difficult to beat with his counter-punching style."



SERIOUSLY  
football

## FA CUP COUNTDOWN: No stopping veteran Taylor

BOB CAN  
STILL DO  
A JOB

**BOB TAYLOR** strolls out in the FA Cup for the 22nd time tomorrow and admits he still gets the same buzz as he did the very first time.

Taylor goes into Tamworth's first-round tie at Blackpool on the back of a sensational hat-trick.

And while he might be 38 in a couple of months' time, his treble against Leigh RMI should be enough to guarantee the former West Brom and Bolton favourite a start against the League One side.

## Heroics

The cup has lost none of its appeal for Taylor, who went as far as the semi-finals with Bolton.

And his heroics last week, as he helped turn around a 2-0 deficit against Leigh, means he goes into today's game a marked man.

But Taylor revealed: "You still get the same buzz, probably even more so now because you know your career is coming to an end."

"When I was a kid at school, I

by DAVE ARMITAGE

used to write essays saying I wanted to be a professional footballer. "You don't lose that but I've been lucky enough to live that whole thing out and I wouldn't change it for the world."

*"You never lose the enthusiasm for it all."*

"When I got my third goal last week I was like a big kid, running around all over the place – the lads couldn't catch me!"

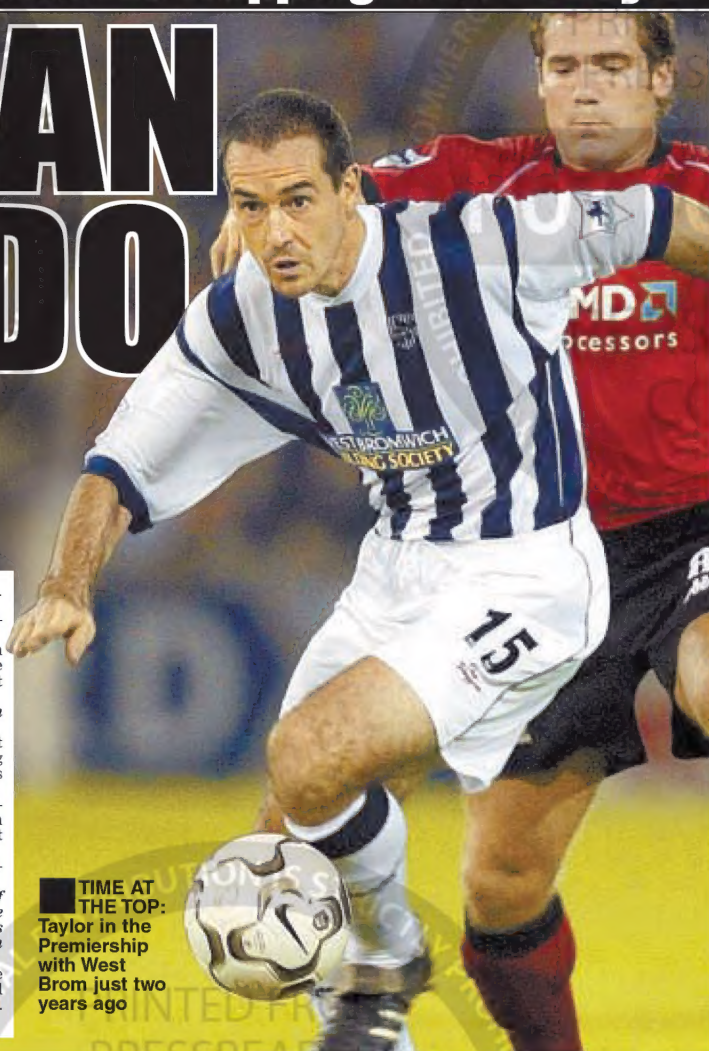
"Sure, I get a lot of mickey-taking but there's nothing they can throw at me about my age I haven't heard a million times before."

"That's what comes with experience."

*"But when it comes to kick-off time I'll be just as excited as the younger lads. That never goes away – mind you that hinges on my being selected."*

"I always say 'if selected' because you won't find me getting changed before the team has been announced. You never know, do you?"

**TIME AT THE TOP:** Taylor in the Premiership with West Brom just two years ago

Information  
Station

## BASKETBALL

NBA: LA Clippers 102 Indiana 68, Boston 90 Portland 86, Washington 106 Orlando 96, Philadelphia 108 New Jersey 100 (OT), Memphis 110 LA Lakers 87, Toronto 104 Utah 95, San Antonio 91 Golden State 71, Milwaukee 102 Charlotte 100, Cleveland 114 Phoenix 109 (OT), Seattle 108 Sacramento 78.

## GOLF

WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP (Telstra, Aus)—Stage 1: 1 M Gronholm (Fin), Peugeot 307 WRC 1min 32.8secs, 2 S Loebl (Fra) Citroen Xsara at 0.3secs, 3 H Rovaniemi (Fin) Peugeot 307 WRC 0.4, 4 P Solberg (Nor) Subaru Impreza WRC 2004 0.8, 5 F Duval (Bel) Ford Focus RS WRC 04 0.9.

## MOTOR SPORT

BRITISH OPEN (Brighton)—3rd Rnd: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt S Lee (Eng) 5-0, S Maguire (Sco) bt D J Hu (Chn) 5-2, A Hamilton (Eng) bt M Williams (Wal) 5-3, A Hicks (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 5-4.

## TENNIS

WTA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Los Angeles)—Group A: L Davenport (US) bt E Dementieva (Rus) 6-0 6-1, S Williams (US) bt A Myskina (Rus) 4-6 6-3 6-4, Group B: S Kuznetsova (Rus) bt V Zvonareva (Rus) 6-2 6-4.

## TODAY'S DIARY

## FOOTBALL

(7.45 unless stated)

FA Cup First Round  
Bristol City v Brentford .....  
Port Vale v Kidderminster .....

Southend v Luton .....  
Wauxhall v Exeter City .....  
Walsley v Exeter City .....  
Walsley v Exeter City .....  
Walsley v Exeter City .....

## BASKETBALL

BBL: Newcastle v London (7.30), Thames Valley v Leicester (8pm).

## BOXING

British welterweight title (Halifax): D Barnes (Manchester, holder) v J Hare (Robertson). European light-welterweight title (Wembley): J Witter (Bradford) v K Bienias (Pol).

## GOLF

Franklin Templeton Shoot-out (Florida).

## RUGBY UNION

(at The Millennium Stadium)  
Wales v Romania (7pm) .....  
Zurich Premiership: Gloucester v Wasps, Harlequins v Saracens.

Celtic League (7.30): Borders v Ulster, Edinburgh v Neath-Swansea.

## SNOOKER

British Open (Brighton).  
Bank of America WTA Tour (Los Angeles).

## TENNIS

YESTERDAY'S SPORTSWOOD  
ACROSS: 1 Wildcats, 7 Allot, 8 Paolo, 9 Rieper, 10 Anke, 12 Gigg, 14 Market, 17 Earle, 18 Livio, 19 Anderson.

DOWN: 1 White, 2 Lauren, 3 Cape, 4 Troas, 5 Carragher, 6 Robertson, 11 Dallas, 13 Goran, 15 Kevin, 16 Pete.

5 FOR FUN ANSWERS  
1 Scott Harrison, 2 Jane Trull, 3 Brian Laudrup, 4 Loughborough Town, 5 Lytham St Annes.

AMIR KHAN'S first competitive fight since the Olympics will be shown live on TV on December 3.

The Bolton teenager, who won a silver medal at lightweight in Athens, will captain England against the USA at Liverpool.

## GAZ'S UP-HILL BATTLE Charles is king for day



OLD SCORE: Garry Hill

HORNCHURCH boss Garry Hill has got an old score to settle with his Boston counterpart Steve Evans.

But as the Urchins sensationally went bust last week, Hill has got no experienced players to help him out.

Three years ago, Hill was in charge of Dagenham and Redbridge as they finished level on points with Boston at the top of the Conference.

Boston had the better goal difference and were allowed to go into the Football League – despite being found guilty of breaking the rules over player contracts.

Evans was suspended for 20 months and fined £8,000 for his part in it. But now he is back, Hill has moved on

by JACK STEGGLES

and the pair come face to face at Boston's York Street ground in an FA Cup first-round clash.

In three glorious years Hill led Dagenham to the third round twice and the fourth round once. But now he is scratching around to field a team for their biggest game of the season.

Last week's side for an FA Trophy game at Arlesey included 15-year-old Billy Drake.

And Hill admitted: "I'll be scratching around until the last minute trying to get some people in. If I don't manage that it will be down to the kids."

IT sounds like a script from Dream Team – a player steps straight from a five-a-side

kickabout into a sell-out FA Cup tie.

But that is what is happening tomorrow when Charles Libam

plays for Histon against Football League strugglers Shrewsbury.

Libam, 23, a former Ivory Coast international who had come to England in search of work, was playing for

fun in a local sports centre when he was spotted by Histon skipper Neil Andrews.

Now he has scored four goals in as many games for the Southern League Premier Division side and is being primed for some cup giant-killing glory against the Shrews.

## 5 FOR FUN

1 Which Scot recently defeated Samuel Kibede, taking only 59 seconds to retain the WBO featherweight title?

2 Which Formula One driver had his first Grand Prix success when he prevailed in this year's Monaco GP?

3 Who was the first non-British player to win the Scottish Footballer of the Year Award?

4 Arsenal's record win and loss is against the same club no longer in the Football League. What is the name of the team?

5 On which English course did Seve Ballesteros win his first Open Championship?

ANSWERS: See Info Station

## SPORTWORD

## ACROSS

1. Yorkshire racecourse (5)

4. Nelson Classic, famous American golf tournament (5)

7. Gary ..., golfer's Portuguese Open winner in 2000 (3)

8. ...-speedway, non-motorised sport (5)

9. Paul ..., former IBF featherweight champion born in Scarborough (5)

10. ... Saint Martin, jockey who won the Arc de Triomphe on four occasions (4)

11. See 20 across.

14. Ian ..., former Leicestershire and West Indies fast bowler (5)

15. ... Jausovec, French Open champion for ladies' singles in 1977 (4)

16. Andy ..., US Open golf champion on two occasions (5)

20. ... and 11 across, Wimbledon men's singles champion in 1992 (5,6)

21. ... Jones, Wimbledon ladies' singles champion in 1969 (3)

22. Celtic, Leeds United and Scotland manager (5)

23. Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning captain (5)

## DOWN

1. ... Marciano, former world heavyweight champion (5)

2. Green Bay ..., American football team (7)

3. ... Murphy, father and son Irish rugby internationals (4)

4. Stamford ..., home of Chelsea (6)

5. ... Trade, Grand National winner in 1976 (3)

6. Southampton and Finland goalkeeper (5)

12. ... Town, football club managed by Glenn Hoddle and Lou Macari (7)

13. Michael ..., motorcycling's 500cc World champion on four occasions (6)

14. England's World Cup winning goalkeeper in 1966 (5)

16. ... Szwedzka, Polish athlete who won three Olympic gold medals (5)

17. Women's long jump Olympic champion in 1964 (4)

19. Alex ..., Rangers midfielder (3)

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. See Info Station for Thursday's answers.



## Curle: I am not a bully

KEITH CURLE has vowed to fight allegations he bullied a young Mansfield trainee into doing a weight-lifting circuit.

Curle has been suspended by chairman Keith Haslam, pending an internal investigation into the claims.

He could be sacked by the League Two club when the findings of the inquiry are published next week – but Curle is ready to contest the claims.

Curle, who has worked without a contract since he took charge two years ago,

has taken legal advice. He said: "Once I am in receipt of the allegations in writing, I will refute them to clear my name."

"I am a professional and honourable man and I will continue to conduct myself in that manner."

Former Stockport County manager Carlton Palmer has been put in temporary charge for tomorrow's home FA Cup tie against Colchester.







# Fans want cash back

ANGRY Southampton fans want the club's players to give them back the £30,000 they spent watching Tuesday's League Cup collapse.

Around 2,400 went to Watford to see their Premiership stars humiliated in a 5-2 thrashing, and they believe they deserve a refund.

Even Saints midfielder Rory Delap described the performance as "a disgrace" and a players meeting has been held to sort out the problems that have battered the club ahead of tomorrow's home clash with South Coast rivals Portsmouth.

Republic of Ireland international Delap confirmed: "The players had a meeting away from the coaching staff. A lot of things were said and a lot of truths came out."

"Afterwards a couple of the senior players saw head coach Steve Wigley to pass on things that had been said. We feel it produced positive results all round."

Delap's apology on behalf of his team mates won't stop supporters insisting Wigley's flops should foot the bill for the Watford trip.

Steve Grant, spokesman for SaintsAway Supporters, said: "It would be a nice gesture from the players, but I am not hopeful. You

by PETER WHITE

don't get much from the club. For the players to go out and play like that was scandalous."

Mick O'Callaghan, chairman of the Southampton Independent Supporters Association said: "The players owe us big time. They not only owe us three points, but the ticket money for the Watford game."

SAINTS are poised to sign Spurs keeper Kasey Keller on loan for a month as cover for Antti Niemi, who is out after a knee operation.

## SERIOUSLY football Anfield underachiever at crossroads



**BACK OF THE KEW:** Harry Kewell hasn't scored in 29 games for Liverpool and faces life on the bench

### "MATCH OF THE DAY MEETS THE MATRIX"

"GRASS-SCORCHING SPECIAL EFFECTS... A LOT OF FUN"

★★★★★ *THEM REVIEW*

"BALL-BUSTING ACTION COMEDY"

★★★★★ *ARENA*

"A BRILLIANT MOVIE THAT'S PURE COMIC BOOK"

★★★★★ *THEM*

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★★★★★ *THEM*

"IT'S THE 'KILL BILL' OF FOOTBALL"

★★★★★ *WIZARD*

STEPHEN CHOW

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AND IN CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

# IT'S TIME FOR KEW TO SHINE

**HARRY KEWELL** last night admitted his Liverpool career could be nearing a crossroads.

The Australia international fears he could spend the rest of the season warming the bench if he can't hit top form fast.

Boss Rafael Benítez has publicly backed the 26-year-old to rediscover the vim and vigour that made him one of the Premiership's best players.

Liverpool's striker shortage means Kewell could be thrust into an attacking role once more against Crystal Palace tomorrow even though Milan Baros's hamstring problem is improving.

### Tough

Kewell said: "Things haven't gone as well for me as I had hoped at Liverpool but I've definitely made a contribution."

"The competition for places is so tough right now that you know, and everyone knows, you could be one match away from the bench."

"That level of fear brings the best out of people and I hope it's true of me. I want to play some games and get back to the levels that I know I'm capable of."

"I'm not there yet but I'm getting there with every passing week."

Kewell has been targeted by disgruntled fans after struggling throughout his 18 months at the club to find the sort of form that made him feared for Leeds.

But he said: "Some people think that if you don't beat every man in the team

by DAVE LYONS

twice, whip in crosses from every angle and score a couple as well then you've not played well. I always set out to do that but you have to take the opponent into account and sometimes the tactics, too."

"We all had a new start at the beginning of the season when the new manager came in from Valencia. Suddenly the slate was wiped clean and we've all had to prove ourselves again."

Kewell, who has not scored for 29 games in a Liverpool shirt, admits his quest for consistency has been hindered by a series of nagging injuries. An ankle problem last season affected his rhythm while this season he has suffered with a knee injury.

Benítez has devised a special fitness programme for Kewell but has warned it could take a month to feel the benefit.

### Niggles

Kewell refuses to use the aches and pains as an excuse but told LFC magazine: "I'm not a player who has been what you could call regularly injured."

"But I can't remember the last time I went into a game not feeling something, somewhere on my body."

"It's not just me though. I would be surprised if anyone anywhere ever goes out 100 per cent fit because there are always little knocks and niggles."

"Pre-season training, or the first game of a new season — that's maybe the only time that you're at your peak."





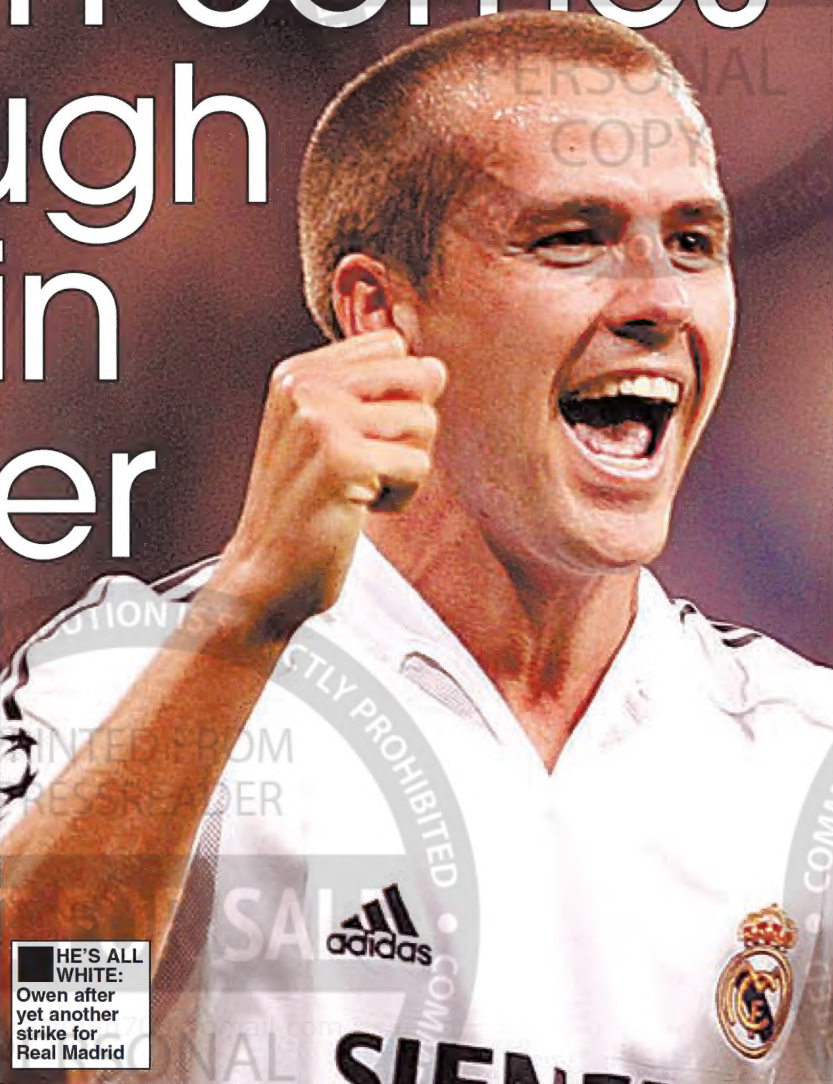
# IT'S A DANNY OLD GAME

Read Chief Football Writer Danny



Fullbrook every Friday

# Owen comes through S-pain barrier



**HE'S ALL WHITE:**  
Owen after yet another strike for Real Madrid

**HUMBLE** pie, anybody? Or should that be pizza, considering the Premiership's fascination with food this season?

Whichever, put your hand up if you felt Michael Owen would crash and burn at Real Madrid.

Go on, be honest with yourself. After his dreadful start I bet there were thousands who thought he had made the biggest mistake of his life.

Only a handful of British players have cut it abroad and Owen did not look like he would be one of them after such a poor beginning to his Bernabeu career.

Not only did he have people in Britain fully expecting him to return in the January transfer window, but they were on his back in Spain as well.

They had seen the cream of the crop signed as "Galacticos" in Madrid, with even David Beckham scoring in his first game for the club.

## Critics

But Owen was questioned from the very beginning. Tomas Roncero, a highly-rated columnist in the sports paper AS, viciously wrote: "Owen is not Reyes, Owen is not Totti, Owen is not Drogba, Owen is not Adriano, Owen is not Figo, Owen is not Raul, Owen is not Zidane. Let's face it, Owen is not a Galactico."

*He went on: "When Rafa Benitez sold us Owen he must have celebrated that night with a bottle of champagne."*

What the Liverpool manager would give for Owen now, considering his injury list and the England man's form.

It should really be no surprise that Owen has hit back at his critics in the best way possible, with five goals in six games, two of them securing important 1-0 victories.

Owen is one of the most dedicated and single-minded professionals in the game, which is exactly why he has succeeded and why it was foolish to underestimate him.

## Petulant

Beckham and Owen may be different creatures, one loving the limelight while the other prefers the shadows of a betting shop.

But they are one and the same on a football pitch, because whatever the challenge, they refuse to let themselves down.

Forget Becks' petulant

**IS Danny right about Michael Owen? Let him know your views. Text DSDANNY followed by a space then your views to 82100. Texts cost 25p plus normal operator rate. Or send him an e-mail to danny.fullbrook@dailystar.co.uk**

was being presented with the Balon D'Or. Admittedly, he struggled to overcome the resistance to his arrival in Spain and the questions over his ability.

It was especially difficult considering the manager he was welcomed in Madrid - Jose Antonio Camacho - did not even want him.

*But when he walked away and Mariano Garcia Remon was put in charge, Owen was finally let off his leash - to devastating effect.*

Becks and Owen were always going to be the two English players of this generation who would fancy their chances abroad.

The pair had the vision and desire to taste football at the very top.

It will be interesting to

see just how well Jonathan Woodgate fares when he eventually gets back to fitness. It will not be easy for the defender, even though there is not that much competition for places at the back in the Madrid side.

What Owen is currently achieving makes a mockery of his £8m transfer fee.

## Obvious

He may have been entering the last season of his contract but I bet by the end of this season it will look like the best piece of business in Europe.

Why one of the big guns from the Premiership did not step in and snap him up when it became obvious he was going for so little, only they know.

He would have fitted in with Chelsea's direct play at Stamford Bridge, and you can't tell me that Alan

Smith is a better option than Owen for Manchester United.

But then again, he would not have gone. Because not only is Owen a great footballer, he has values. And just as he would never have walked out on Liverpool for nothing, he would also have never left them for one of their biggest rivals.

Eventually he will return - and possibly in an Arsenal shirt. But the fact he did not stick the knife into the Merseysiders will always be remembered on the Kop.

Ultimately, we should be thankful Owen is hitting his stride at the Bernabeu.

*Because if he can make it there, he can make it anywhere - which can only be good news for England's cause in the 2006 World Cup.*

## Wenger dilemma

ARSENE WENGER said he would play his young guns again in the quarter-finals after they dumped Everton out of the League Cup on Tuesday.

I wonder if he feels differently now they will be facing Manchester United? Such a quick return to Old Trafford is not ideal for him. But it will be interesting to see if he keeps his word and sticks with the kids - or the "Brady Bunch" as they are being labelled, as ex-Arsenal star Liam Brady is the academy director.

GERARD HOULLIER has dropped out of the running to be the next manager of Wales, leaving John Toshack, Philippe Troussier and Dean Saunders in the running.

The FAW sub-committee met at Heathrow yesterday and will make an announcement today.

JAY-JAY OKOCHA will be allowed to link up with Nigeria next week to play against South Africa... so he can meet Nelson Mandela.

HULL have signed 27-year-old Stockport striker Luke Beckett in a £75,000 deal after he refused to sign a new contract at Edgeley Park.

ARSENAL vice-chairman David Dein wants a long-term study into the possible effects of synthetic pitches on player injuries before Premier League clubs are allowed to introduce artificial turf.

NORWICH striker Darren Huckerby has signed a one-year contract extension that will keep him at the club until June 2007.

WOLVES record goal-scorer Steve Bull has thrown his hat into the ring for the vacant manager's post at Kidderminster Harriers.

STRIKER Scott Dobie, 26, has completed his £750,000 move to Millwall. He signed after falling behind Robert Earnshaw in the pecking order at West Brom.

STEVE McMAHON and Danny Wilson are both interested in managing Notts County.

LEEDS United defender Stephen Crainey faces an extended spell out with a groin injury which may need surgery.

TONY ADAMS will be welcomed back by Brunel University if the former England captain chooses to resume his sport science degree after resigning from his job as manager of Wycombe.

FERNANDO RICKSEN has rejected talks over a new contract at Ibrox to keep his options open in the January transfer window.

PORTSMOUTH defender Eddie Howe, 26, has rejoined his first club Bournemouth after fans of the hard-up League One side clubbed together to pay his £7,500 signing-on fee.

WALSALL have transfer-listed former Manchester United trainee Kris Taylor.

COVENTRY CITY have decided against signing former Portsmouth and West Ham defender Sebastian Schemmel after a trial.

PRESTON striker Andy Smith, 24, has joined League One strugglers Stockport on a month's loan.

STEVE CLARIDGE has made a League comeback with Championship side Brighton at the age of 38, following his sacking at Conference South club Weymouth.

BRISTOL ROVERS boss Ian Atkins has been fined £800 after admitting to two counts of abusive and insulting conduct during his side's 2-2 draw with Yeovil.



# Fans set to make it hot for Glazer

MALCOLM GLAZER has been challenged to "prove his backbone" by facing angry Manchester United shareholders at today's AGM.

United chief executive David Gill and the PLC Board are set to face a barrage of probing questions from shareholders desperate to block American tycoon Glazer's bid to buy the club.

Gill announced earlier this month that the PLC had opted not to support Glazer's proposed buy-out. But United fans are still vowing to make life tough for Glazer and Irish duo John Magnier and JP McManus, who own almost 60 per cent of the club between them.

## Face

Shareholders United spokesman Oliver Houston has warned that the AGM at Old Trafford is likely to be the most heated since BSKyB tried to buy the club six years ago.

He said: "Considering that Glazer owns almost 30 per cent of United and Magnier and McManus another

■ by GEORGE SCOTT

30 per cent, it would be nice if they turned up to show their face. But I doubt they have the backbone and courage to face shareholders.

"There will obviously be lots of questions relating to the Wayne Rooney deal and all the money that the club are paying to agents."

"But we have bigger fish to fry than that because agents fees are a drop in the ocean compared to what Glazer will take out of the club if he gains control."

## SERIOUSLY football

# Arsenal ace set to punish arch



■ CHAMPIONS: Kolo Toure and his Arsenal team-mates enjoy clinching the Premiership title after a 2-2 draw at Tottenham in April

# Jol: We're Gunner catch you



TARGET: Martin Jol training yesterday

MARTIN Jol last night claimed he can help Spurs catch Arsenal within a year.

The flying Dutchman faces his first Premiership game as Tottenham boss against the Champions tomorrow admitting his task is to close the chasm that separates the two North London clubs.

But he insisted defiantly: "It might be easier than you think to get closer to them."

"Lots of clubs just want to be successful, but we have got all the ingredients here to actually do it. We can achieve things."

Jol's brave boast will put him under major pressure just four days after he was promoted following Jacques Santini's shock walkout.

But he is determined to

■ by SCOTT COLEMAN

think positive and rates a meeting with Arsene Wenger's aces as the best place to start.

He added: "It would be strange if you didn't have the ambition with a club like this to get closer to Arsenal."

## Amazing

"The Spurs board are amazing. They have spent money and if they keep doing that I think we will be able to build a great side."

"This is not a revolution of one day, but it is a revolution of maybe a year. I am 80 or 90 per cent sure I can manage to do it, although I know it will be a hell of a job."

Jol admits the gulf between

them was underlined by the midweek League Cup games.

"Arsenal played with their reserves against Everton and they won comfortably."

"I had to use all the players in my squad against Burnley and that shows the difference between the two teams."

Jol believes he can make a start on his long-term road if he can mastermind a win over the Gunners tomorrow.

He believes his side should not be frightened of Arsene Wenger's men and has promised to go on the offensive to exploit Arsenal's recent lack of confidence.

"I want us to play organised football in an attacking way. And in general if you do not entertain the crowd then you do not have a future."

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rivals after last season's Spur-fect ending



# WE'VE GOTTA WIN THIS ONE FOR THE FANS

Says KOLO TOURE

**KOLO TOURE has the best memento possible of clinching the Premiership title at White Hart Lane.**

The Ivory Coast defender has a picture of himself and his wife, Mado, on the Arsenal team bus as it drove away from the ground.

An enlarged framed copy of the photograph is all ready to take pride of place in their new house.

*But nobody would have predicted that just a few months later, the Premiership's record-breakers would be returning to the scene of their triumph seemingly in crisis.*

The League Cup apart, Arsenal have seen Chelsea gain seven points on them in three weeks to take top spot.

Behind the scenes there is a crisis of confidence as last month's 2-0 defeat by Manchester United at Old Trafford, which brought their unbeaten 49-match Premiership run to an end, has taken its toll.

Manager Arsene Wenger is worried about his top stars becoming complacent, so the North London derby tomorrow is exactly what is needed to restore the fire in Arsenal's bellies. Last year's dramatic

by DANNY FULLBROOK

draw and celebrations afterwards of winning the title is something Toure will never forget.

At the launch of the Diambars Charitable Trust to raise money for a Football Academy in Senegal, the Ivory Coast defender asked: "Is it the right time for Spurs game? It will be a really tough game but we will try to get some points from them."

"The North London rivalry is fantastic, it's really exciting to go on to the pitch. I hope to be on the pitch and I will do my best."

## Hardest

"Last season's game at White Hart Lane was one of the greatest days of my life, just fantastic."

"It was the first time I'd won the championship and naturally, it will stay in my heart and in my mind for the rest of my life."

Reminded of the great pictures of him on the pitch, Toure added: "I know, I was so happy. It was such a big thing for me."

"Being at the back, nobody expected me there but we won the championship."

"I hope I can keep going. The hard part is ahead of me because everybody is waiting for me now. I think that is something I have to try to cope with."

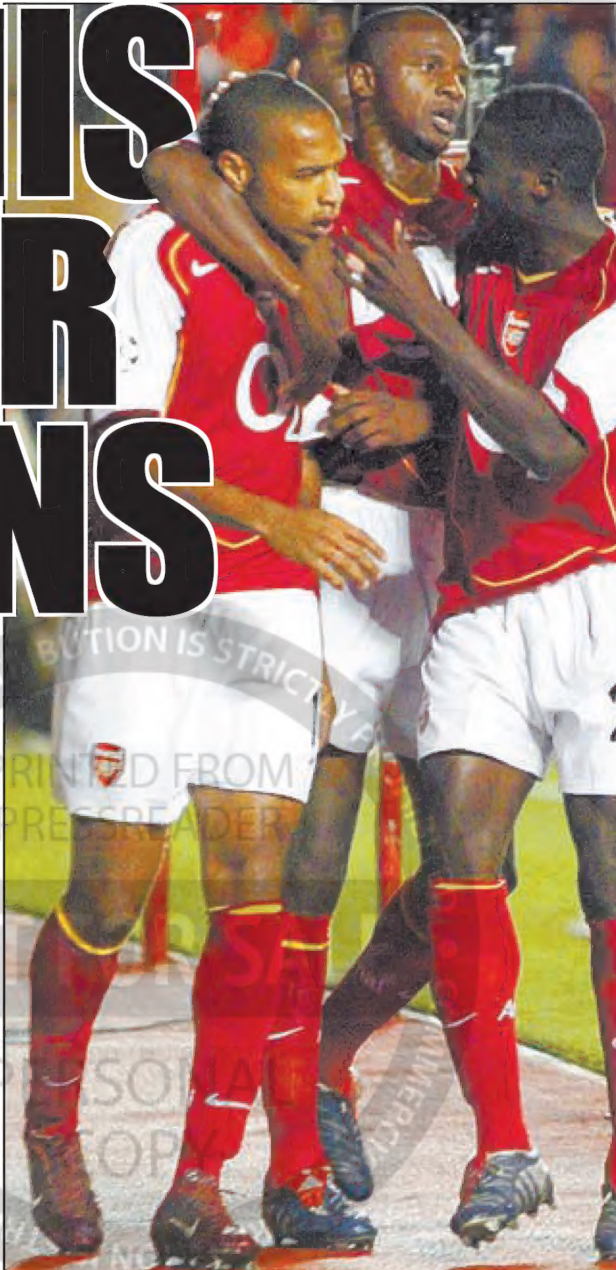
"It will be really hard for me now because, when the strikers come, they will not see only an Ivory Coast defender, they'll see somebody who is a good player."

"The hardest thing is coming for me now."

"I have the medal at my house, it has pride of place, definitely. I can tell you the place it is if you want! I have photos of the celebrations, but they are not up yet."

"But I'm moving house at the moment and I'll put them up in the new place."

"All the games we play are really important but



TEAM SPIRIT: Henry, Vieira and Toure enjoy a Champions League goal

Tottenham is something different. For the fans we have to try to do something. For us, we have to be professional, we have to beat Tottenham, we have to try to win the championship, we have to try to beat Chelsea."

*"Not one of the Arsenal players will allow their guard to drop and admit their confidence has been shaken."*

Toure is the same. He added: "The season is really hard, we've had a few

bad results but that's football. "We come to win every game, definitely. Now we've lost a game but it's part of life."

"Sometimes you are really happy when you wake up, sometimes you are not so happy. Everything will be good."

"Confidence is as high today as it was at the start of the season."

"We have some great players like Patrick Vieira, Thierry Henry and Dennis Bergkamp."

We are confident, we are a team, we have a great manager and I think we need just to be really confident and not over-react."

*A win over Spurs will definitely restore any dent to their confidence.*

And it might just give Toure a new picture to add to his collection

●FOR more information about the Diambars Academy and The 1000 Club, visit the charity's website [www.diambars.com](http://www.diambars.com)

## Peace off, say Guns

From Back Page happened." The latest twists mean that not even a match between two virtual youth teams in a competition neither club is both-ered about winning can be guaranteed to stay free of spite.

The crowded calendar will make it tough for the FA to find time to deal with all the hangover from the last Battle of Old Trafford before part three kicks off.

If the Gunners don't want to co-operate with a PR exercise it will be even harder.

Even if FA chairman Geoff Thompson does manage to set up a meeting with United chief executive David Gill and Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein, it will be the two managers who will have the biggest influence on behaviour.

## Wounds

Wenger has yet to decide whether to defend his 'cheat' accusations against United's Ruud van Nistelrooy at a personal hearing.

John Barnwell, chief executive of the League Managers' Association, said: "This tie is a great opportunity to heal the wounds. If you don't face up to these issues then they can be allowed to fester."

Barnwell recently wrote to all members, reminding them of their responsibilities to show mutual respect.

He revealed: "It was not specifically aimed at Arsene or Alex (Ferguson), although obviously their recent disagreement has been well-publicised."

"In our business, you are always going to get those sort of disagreements — although we would prefer them to be kept in private if at all possible."

Wenger and Fergie have refused to back down in their war of words since United's 2-0 victory last month.

Fergie was covered in pizza and soup after a tunnel melee. A war of words then continued between Wenger and Ferguson as Van Nistelrooy was banned by video evidence for three games for a challenge on Ashley Cole.

## Leeds in turmoil

CRISIS club Leeds could be forced to sell Elland Road within the next 24 hours — after a take-over by Sebastian Sainsbury looked set to collapse last night.

Earlier this week the US-backed consortium led by Sainsbury gave proof of funding to Leeds chairman Gerald Krasner.

Both parties appeared confident the £25m deal would be done by today.

The Leeds board insisted on the deadline so the latest instalment on the £15m loan from Aston Villa shareholder Jack Petchey could be paid.

Leeds owe Petchey another £2.5m payment and face another £2m in penalties if it is not made.

Selling Elland Road now looks almost inevitable.

## Wenger lines up Downo

from Back Page

putting the lad who has burst to prominence under Steve McClaren under the closest scrutiny as they search for back-up for Jose Antonio Reyes.

Wenger has many talented midfielders in his impressive, young squad. But he doesn't have a wide left player anywhere near as good as Reyes.

Downing could also be coveted by Manchester United, where Ryan Giggs, 31 on November 29, still doesn't have a serious

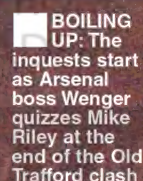
challenger. Giggs is also upset with the club for offering him only a one-year extension to his contract, which expires a year next summer.

Boro won't want to sell, but they would be put under pressure by a big bid for the player who many believe should be named in Sven Goran Eriksson's full England squad.



## ■ EXCLUSIVE by BILL THORNTON

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A Highbury source said: "The clubs already know their responsibilities and there should be no repeat of what

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